

What are insectary plants?

Plants that provide the necessary protein and carbohydrates in the form of pollen and nectar for beneficials, like lady beetles and lacewings, to survive and produce offspring. Building a habitat for beneficials (whether it's pollinators or natural enemies of pests, or both) is a non-pesticide approach to pest control. In general, umbel-type plants that have flower clusters shaped like flattopped umbrellas provide a landing platform, and are suited for beneficial that are minute with shorter mouthparts. Below is a "cheat sheet" to remember which plants attract beneficials, tips for creating a successful habitat and further resources to expand your knowledge and skills.

Nine indispensable insectary plants

1. Anise Hyssop- *Agastache foeniculum* or *A. rugosa* (especially parasitic wasps)
2. Cilantro (lady beetles, green lacewings, and parasitic wasps)
3. Coreopsis (syrphid flies, lady beetles, lacewings, and parasitic wasps)
4. Cosmos (syrphid flies, lady beetles, lacewings)
5. Fennel- *Foeniculum vulgare* (nectar-feeding beneficials and anise swallowtail butterfly)
6. Golden Marguerite- *Anthemis tinctoria* (all five essential beneficials-- syrphid flies, lady beetles, lacewings, parasitic wasps, and tachinid flies)
7. Lavender- *Lavandula angustifolia* (syrphid flies and small pollinating insects)
8. Sweet Alyssum- *Lobularia maritima* (nectar source for beneficial insects and syrphid flies)
9. Yarrow- *Achillea millefolium*; *A. filipendulina* (syrphid flies, lady beetles, lacewings, parasitic wasps, and tachinid flies)

Keys to Success:

- Climate, location, time of year, and amount of flowers produced are all factors that can affect how attractive a plant is to beneficials. To ensure continuous supply of food for beneficials consider growing a diversity of plants that will offer a succession of blooms throughout the season, from early spring to fall.
- Learn how to scout by continuously and actively look for signs and symptoms of pests and disease, checking the undersides of leaves, along the stem and around root--the more you look, the more you see.

Resources:

Biocontrol Bytes- blog managed by Amara Dunn, Biocontrol Specialist with the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/biocontrolbytes/>

Habitat Planning for Beneficial Insects- published by the Xerces Society- <https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/habitat-planning-for-beneficial-insects>

"Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden" – 4-page guide published by Oregon State University <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw550.pdf>

The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest and Disease Control: A Complete Guide to Maintaining a Healthy Garden and Yard the Earth-Friendly Way, edited by Barbara Ellis and Fern Marshall Bradley, Rodale Press, 2010

Source: "Rodale's Basic Organic Gardening: A Beginner's Guide to Starting a Healthy Garden" by Deborah L. Martin. Any questions please get in touch with **Yolanda Gonzalez**/ yg88@cornell.edu / 516-305-0358

